

201307168
Oghenevigh Okrokoto

A man was putting together his wheelchair with his cousin in his parked car when Detective Okrokoto approached and knocked on the window. The detective demanded to search the car and then looked under the seats and in the glove compartment. According to the man, he tried to call 911 on his cell phone while the search was ongoing, but Detective Okrokoto pulled the phone away from him. After searching the car, the officers left without issuing the man a summons or arresting him.

The man stated that the detective never told him why he had been stopped. In his CCRB interview, the detective stated that he had the man toss a plastic bag containing white powder, which he believed to be drugs, to the person in the passenger seat. He further stated that when he searched the car he found the bag, and it contained jewelry. His partner, however, testified that he did not know why Detective Okrokoto had stopped the driver and searched the car. The partner stated that he did not observe the man toss a plastic bag to the person in the passenger seat.

The CCRB substantiated allegations that Detective Okrokoto abused his authority by stopping and searching the car and found that the statement that he had observed what appeared to be a drug transaction to be a false material statement, as contradicted by his partner.

Detective Okrokoto was tried at the administrative prosecution unit and forced to forfeit five vacation days. He is currently a detective in the Gun Violence Suppression Unit.

Interview Details

- [REDACTED] is a 6'0" black man who weighs 125 lbs., and has black hair and brown eyes. He is in a wheelchair. He was [REDACTED] years old at the time of the incident.

CCRB Statement

[REDACTED] was interviewed at the CCRB on September 6, 2013.

On August 2, 2013 at 2:49 p.m., [REDACTED] drove to a corner store with his [REDACTED]-year-old cousin, [REDACTED]. He was not driving erratically and had not committed any traffic violations. He then parked his car on [REDACTED] one car away from the intersection of [REDACTED] in Brooklyn. [REDACTED] drives a silver 1999 Honda Civic which is a two-door hatch back with license plate [REDACTED]. He was wearing a t-shirt and jeans. [REDACTED] is slim and 5 ft. tall and her hair was in a ponytail. She was wearing a blouse and jeans. [REDACTED] uses a wheelchair to get around, which breaks apart into pieces for transport. He was in the parked car for about five minutes while he put together his wheelchair. [REDACTED] was sitting in the front passenger seat.

As [REDACTED] put together his wheelchair, [REDACTED] asked why a man was staring at them. [REDACTED] looked up and saw PO1 exiting the driver side of a blue minivan with the license plate [REDACTED]. PO1 was a muscular black man, about 6'0" tall, with a small mustache and low haircut. His complexion was slightly lighter than [REDACTED] and he was wearing a blue t-shirt with yellow writing and jeans. The minivan was double parked next to the car in front of [REDACTED]. PO2 exited the vehicle from the passenger side. PO2 was a 60-year-old white man who was balding. He was about 5'10" and slender and had a 5 o'clock shadow. He was wearing a t-shirt and jeans. PO2 looked into [REDACTED] car from the front windshield and then knocked on the driver's window. [REDACTED] windows were closed, and he asked what PO1 wanted. [REDACTED] did not know he was an officer. PO1 knocked on his window again, so [REDACTED] opened his door and asked again what he wanted. PO1 pulled a gold badge out of his shirt, but the numbers and name were facing his chest. PO2 then lifted up his shirt to show that he had a gun on him. PO2 was standing further back and was also on the driver's side.

PO1 told [REDACTED] that if he did not get out of the car he would be arrested. [REDACTED] felt like PO1 was going to drag him out of the car, so he told the officer that he would get out of the car once he put together his wheelchair. [REDACTED] asked if there was something wrong but PO1 did not answer. PO1 asked what [REDACTED] was putting in her purse and [REDACTED] told him that she was putting money in the bag.

PO1 started to look under [REDACTED] seat. He walked to the back of the car and tried to open the trunk, but it was locked. He walked to the passenger side and told [REDACTED] to get out of the car. [REDACTED] told her not to. PO1 told [REDACTED] again to get out of the car. [REDACTED] was not certain how many more times PO1 told [REDACTED] to get out of the car but eventually she got out of the car and PO1 looked under the passenger seat and went into the glove compartment. PO1 also disheveled some papers [REDACTED] had on his backseat. At some point during the search, PO2 asked [REDACTED] why he was in a wheelchair. [REDACTED] did not understand why PO1 asked him that and did not answer. [REDACTED] asked why PO1 was searching his car and PO2 told him to relax.

[REDACTED] decided to call 911 and was looking through his phone. PO1 walked to the driver's side and squeezed [REDACTED] hand and pulled the phone away, cracking the screen. PO1 then continued to look in the backseat of the car. When PO1 was done searching, the officers went back to their car and drove away. They never asked [REDACTED] for his ID and did not issue him a summons.

Interview Details

- *Det. Oghenevigho Okrokoto is a 5'11" tall, 230-pound black man with black hair and brown eyes. He was 39 years old at the time of the incident.*
- *On August 2, 2013, Det. Okrokoto worked from 9:27 a.m. until 6 p.m. He was assigned to the prisoner van, a blue Ford van #47379 with Det. Joey Morales. They were in plainclothes.*

Memo book

At 2:50 p.m., Det. Okrokoto prepared a Stop and Frisk report for a man, 33 years old, black, 5'8", approximately 140 pounds, black hair, brown eyes, small frame, holding what appeared to be wrapped up heroin in plastic clear bags to a female passenger. The man in a wheelchair was very agitated, stating, "I am going to call my mother. She works for the city" and cursed at us with profanities. He refused Det. Okrokoto's request to explain the circumstances."

CCRB Statement

On March 4, 2014, Det. Okrokoto was interviewed at the CCRB.

On August 2, 2013 at 2:50 p.m., Det. Okrokoto was sitting in his car when he observed a man leaning into a car holding a 1-2 inch plastic bag of a white substance. Det. Okrokoto did not recall the color of the car, or whether it was a car, truck or SUV. Det. Okrokoto was three to four feet away. The man was standing and leaning into the driver side of his car. There was a black woman in the front passenger seat. Det. Okrokoto exited his car and approached the man with his shield displayed. As he did, the man threw the bag into the car. When the man threw the bag, Det. Okrokoto was one to two feet away.

Det. Okrokoto was shown a photo of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had the same build as the man Det. Okrokoto stopped, but he could not say with certainty that [REDACTED] was the man leaning into the car. Det. Okrokoto's attention was called to [REDACTED] chin-length dread locks, but Det. Okrokoto did not remember his hair. The man leaning into the car was standing outside of the car and did not sit in a wheelchair. The investigation determined that they were the same person, and although [REDACTED] was not referred to again during the interview, the man with plastic bag will henceforth be referred to as [REDACTED]

Det. Okrokoto did not remember if he ever saw [REDACTED] sitting in the car. He denied threatening to arrest [REDACTED] if he did not exit the car.

Det. Okrokoto leaned into [REDACTED] car from the driver's seat. He did not sit in the car. He saw that the bag landed in between the center console and the driver's seat. He retrieved the bag and found that it was full of jewelry. Det. Okrokoto did not enter the glove compartment or the backseat and did not try to open the trunk. Det. Joey Morales did not search the car. He took no actions and only stood to the side, acting as backup. Det. Okrokoto saw a wheelchair in the backseat that was folded up.

Det. Okrokoto could not describe the woman. He did not know her age, whether she was an adult or a child, or if she remained sitting in the car or exited. Det. Okrokoto did not interact with her.

No civilian tried to record the incident with a phone. Det. Okrokoto denied squeezing [REDACTED] hand and cracking the screen of his phone. He denied that there was any property damage during the incident.

Det. Okrokoto tried to explain to [REDACTED] why he was stopped. [REDACTED] was agitated and started cursing at Det. Okrokoto in a high-pitched voice. Det. Okrokoto asked for [REDACTED] ID to prepare a stop and frisk report. [REDACTED] refused to provide it so Det. Okrokoto prepared a John Doe stop and frisk report. The incident occurred within the 70th Precinct, but he submitted the report at Narcotics Borough Brooklyn South.

At the end of the interview, Det. Okrokoto said that the location is near a school and that there are children around the 7/11 nearby. Det. Okrokoto did not reference this when speaking with [REDACTED]

Interview Details

- *Det. Joey Morales is a 5'9" tall, 200-pound, bald Hispanic man with brown eyes. He was 52 years old at the time of the incident.*
- *On August 2, 2013, Det. Morales worked from 9:27 a.m. until 6 p.m. He was assigned to the prisoner van, a blue Ford van # [REDACTED] with his partner, Det. Oghenevigho Okrokoto.*

Memo book

At 2:45 p.m., Det. Morales was at the corner of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. At 2:50 p.m., Det. Okrokoto prepared a stop and frisk report.

CCRB Statement

On March 13, 2014, Det. Morales was interviewed at the CCRB.

On August 2, 2013 at 2:45 p.m., Det. Morales and Det. Okrokoto arrived at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to get coffee from a 7/11. Det. Morales and Det. Okrokoto both got out of the car. Det. Morales always looks around to see where his partner is. Det. Okrokoto was out of Det. Morales' sight for a few seconds. He turned around, and saw Det. Okrokoto reaching into car.

Det. Morales reached in through the driver's seat. The driver was sitting in the car. The passenger was a black woman. She was not an adult. Det. Morales did not know why Det. Okrokoto approached the vehicle. He did not recall the kind of car. He did not recall if Det. Okrokoto reached up down, or towards one of the passengers. Det. Morales was shown a photo of [REDACTED] but did not recognize him as the driver.

Det. Morales heard the driver yelling at Det. Okrokoto, but could not recall any specific statements. Det. Okrokoto calmly explained what had just happened. Det. Morales did not remember what Det. Okrokoto said. Det. Morales approached the vehicle and stood on the driver's side towards the back of the car.

Det. Morales did not hear Det. Okrokoto instruct [REDACTED] or the passenger to exit the car. He never saw either the driver or the passenger outside of the car. He did not hear Det. Okrokoto tell the driver that if he did not get out of the car, he would be arrested. Det. Morales did not see [REDACTED] do anything that he could have been arrested for.

Det. Morales stood behind Det. Okrokoto and could not see his hands. He did not see Det. Okrokoto grab [REDACTED] hand and break his phone. Det. Morales did not see [REDACTED] phone and did not hear [REDACTED] threaten to call 911. Det. Morales saw no remnants of a broken phone. He did not see Det. Okrokoto make physical contact with [REDACTED].

From outside the car, Det. Morales noticed a wheelchair in the back seat. He did not recall if it was folded up. He did not recall [REDACTED] saying that he was handicapped. He never saw [REDACTED] sitting in the wheelchair.

Det. Morales did not see Det. Okrokoto search the back seat, the glove compartment or the trunk. He did not see Det. Okrokoto enter the car. He did not see a plastic bag with a white substance in it. He did not hear Det. Okrokoto make any statements about anything white or any sort of bag. Det. Morales did not see anything that would indicate a drug transaction.

Det. Morales saw Det. Okrokoto prepare a stop and frisk report.